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Wednesday, December 6, 2023





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Oh Christmas Tree

Monica Scott of Minden picks out a Christmas tree at the Abbey Gardens Holiday Market on Dec. 2. With vendors from around the county and beyond, the event drew hundreds to celebrate the festivities. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*

Council says community should have a say in Lochlin facility

by JAMES MATTHEWS

 $Local\ Journalism\ Initiative\ Reporter$

Minden Hills has a choice to make regarding re-opening the Lochlin Community Centre.

That is to either repair the existing structure at an estimated cost of \$366,000 or to demolish the building and construct a new one at a cost of \$600,000.

"In terms of remediation ... I guess it is a tear-down and a rebuild," Mayor Bob Carter said during council's regular meeting Nov. 30.

He asked about the type of structure that could be erected for the quoted price.

Candace McGuigan, the township's parks, recreation, and facilities manager, said it

would be a "generic structure" of the same square footage as the current building.

Council will ask that a Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee meet to explore the issue.

see STAFF page 2



Minden restaurant makes top 100 in Canada

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

When you walk into Heather Lodge, it feels like you're stepping onto the set of a holiday Hallmark movie. Every room is adorned with white twinkling lights, and a Christmas tree is propped in each corner; sparkling decorations catching the light off Twelve Mile Lake that shines through the windows. There is a crackling fire lit, and bottles of fine wines displayed along the deep wooden bar.

The lodge has been owned and operated by Maria and James Jennings for a decade as of Dec. 1 of this year. "We started with the concept of creating a culinary experience, and we are still practicing that same concept, ten years later," said Maria.

This is why it's no surprise that the lodge was recently named one of the top 100 restaurants in Canada by OpenTable. The awards are decided by reviews made on the app, and it was noted that some trending terms from this year's judges were items such as "family style", "good vibes", and "family-friendly".

In total, 41 restaurants from Ontario were recognized, followed by 20 from British Columbia, 19 from Alberta, 16 in Quebec, three in Nova Scotia, and one from Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We originally thought this was just celebrating Ontario restaurants," said Maria, "but when we found out it was all across Canada, we were really surprised."

Maria and James believe they have found their niche when it comes to the culinary experience that Heather Lodge offers. It's a facility designed for adults only, with fine, local foods, wines, cocktails, and the add-on of accommodations and experiences. They opt to only take select seatings at certain times; guaranteeing each visitor feels supported and seen, and offering that intimate experience to anyone who sets foot in the lodge.

Maria is no stranger to understanding the wants and needs of the community. Prior to stepping into her role at Heather Lodge, she worked as the tourism coordinator for Haliburton County, the manager at the Haliburton County Chamber of Commerce, and was a board member for Ontario Highlands Tourism Organization, to name a few.

She spent years following the trends and finding ways to put Haliburton County on the map, so when the opportunity arose to explore the tourism world in a new way, she and her husband, James, jumped on it.

"At the time that we bought the lodge, there was absolutely no business, and no staff," she recalled, as she reflected on the early days of navigating resort ownership with young children in tow. "But now, we are consistently getting hun-



The team at Heather Lodge are dedicated to bringing guests a unique and memorable culinary experience; something that is noted repeatedly in their reviews. Pictured, members of the team pause for a group photo. Some members were absent at the time of the photo. /Photo submitted

dreds of bookings a year, and we've really established our restaurant side and our accommodation side."

Like many businesses, Heather Lodge had to pivot during the COVID-19 years. "It was a bumpy ride but we did the best we could," said James, "but domestic travel was a huge spin-off for us." Referencing the fact that the lodge offers private entrances, take-out dining, and opportunities for little to no interaction during a visit, James and Maria noted that they managed to the best of their abilities during the lockdowns and the uncertainty. They shared that they still have guests who are COVID cautious who choose to stay with them, based on the flexibility they have around contact.

Ten years later, through the ups and the downs, Maria and

James live on-site at Heather Lodge with their two teenage daughters. "We've all grown up here," Maria said, "and maybe it's unusual for a couple to work together, because operationally, you're always tapped in."

But as the couple sat by the fire and reflected on their decade in business together; the awards, the recognition, the accomplishments, they exude pride for all they've done - not just for their family, but for the community as a whole. For putting Haliburton County on the map, in more ways than one.

"This is not just a job," smiled Maria, "this is a lifestyle. And we just keep pushing to be better."

Staff seek direction on next steps for Lochlin

from page 1

The centre has been closed to the public since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. And it has remained closed, even though the municipality was given the green light to re-open facilities.

Prior to 2019, the facility had issues with the roof leaking into one of the washroom areas. The repair to the roof had been budgeted but, due to staffing changes and the COVID-19 pandemic, the necessary repairs were not undertaken.

The result was mould growth in one of the washroom areas,



which required the removal of wall and ceiling materials in that area.

That washroom is currently unfinished.

The roof was replaced in late 2021.

In 2021, the township got a federal Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant for facility upgrades. The scope of this project is to rehabilitate/renovate/replace the entrance accessible ramps, and doorways to two Community Centres, one curling club facility and the Library/Cultural Centre to meet current Ontario Building Code standards and to become compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) 2025 requirements for municipalities.

It was discovered in the spring of 2022 that the Lochlin building's basement had significantly flooded and there was mould in the kitchen areas.

It was determined that mould growth is impacting air quality. The mould was caused by water infiltration in both the foundation and roof of the building envelope.

Hazardous materials including asbestos and lead paint were observed in the facility. That asbestos and lead in the building materials will impact the remediation process and necessitates the use of precautions to ensure worker safety.

"We are looking at a substantial cost, but we need to understand what we need to do," McGuigan said. "What the

community is looking for."

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell suggested that the Lochlin Community Centre Advisory Committee have a fulsome discussion about the building and the options toward its remediation before council decides on the matter.

"It's not just a building," Schell said. "Even though it's not a dedicated heritage building, it has a lot of history within the community and I think you're going to find that a lot of members on that committee are not going to want just a new building plopped onto the property."

Coun. Bob Sisson suggested the municipality seek a second opinion on options for the facility. Perhaps there's somebody who could repair the centre for \$100,000, he said.

"It's something to think about," Sisson said. "There's a lot of old things that get repaired. Why are we just going to demolish it? It doesn't make any sense."

"This was just the initial starting point," Carter said.

"I would like to go beyond the people on the committee," Coun. Pam Sayne said. "I would like to have the community informed in that area about what's going on and what the options are."

"I think we owe it to these people to let them know what's going on," Sisson said. "I mean, we've been dragging this on and keeping it secret from them for months. And they need to know what's going on."

MH resident makes a case for grandfathering dock

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

At least one Minden Hills resident feels history should be considered when a dock's legality is in question.

There's long been a dock on the opposite side of the shore road from Daniela Lita's Kashagawigamog Lake Road property. It's been there many years, enabling access to the water from what's described in a letter to township council as a small corner of the shoreline road allowance.

"Our request is not for anything new but merely to continue the utilization that was established by the original owner and has existed for many years," Lita wrote in a letter to council.

"We are aware that certain docks along this shoreline were granted grandfathered status if their owners could prove the existence of the dock in place. We firmly believe that our property should qualify for such grandfathering.'

While Lita provided photographic proof of the dock as far back as 2004, she said she isn't certain whether the previous owner had a permit for it. Included in the information were site plans, drawings showing property lines, and a topographic map.

"I will be happy to comply with whatever permit requirements have been set out by the municipality," Lita wrote in an email to

Minden Hills' senior planner. In another email: "I do feel that historical use should carry some weight,"

Amanda Dougherty, the senior planner, wrote in a June 2022 reply email to Lita that there's a hitch in the argument.

"This served to clear up confusion about the location of the dock," Dougherty wrote.

"The report did not, however, go forward to council as the shore road in question is not directly across the road from your property as per the policy, and where there is a license held with another property owner for structures also within that area.'

According to the municipality's shore road allowance license of occupation rules, a new dock will be considered if the applicant is the owner of the property directly across from the shoreline road allowance or has deeded access; the dock can be located at least three metres from the travelled portion of the road (a lesser setback may be permitted at the discretion of the public works director); and the dock can meet the shoreline structure requirements

Where a dock has legally existed prior to Aug. 31, 2006, the dock may remain provided that any improvements are limited to the same size or square footage as the original dock, but not necessarily the same design, and can meet the shoreline structure requirements.

Any renovation or replacement of the dock that is more than 10 per cent of an original road allowance leading to water must be relocated directly in front of the applicant's property and meet the shoreline structure requirements.

Donna McCallum lobbied council during its regular meeting Nov. 30 on Lita's behalf. She said she hoped to offer council some clarification into the property owners' argument.

There was a dock on the property for a number of years, McCallum said. As such, the property owners are asking that the dock be grandfathered.

'They're not asking for anything new," she said. "They want to legalize it. They want to do it properly so they've gone through all the steps. It's gotten lost in the circle of bureaucracy.'

Mayor Bob Carter said the information will be forwarded to staff. A recommendation will be given to council and then a decision on the issue will be made.

HHSS Interact Club organizes teen gift drive

by BRITNEY PAGLIUCA

Times Staff

The Interact Club is a group of approximately twenty students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS), who dedicate their time to making a difference in the community and finding innovative solutions that promote human welfare. They operate in partnership with Rotaract and Rotary, and are often supported by the high school and community in their projects. Each year the Interact Club aims to organize a humanitarian initiative at a local, national, and international level.

Co-Presidents Annabelle Borgdorff and Brody Bolger showed appreciation for the club and how it helps mobilize their desire to make a difference in the world. "Everyone wants to help others," Brody said, "Interact Club joins us together and makes that possible.'

For the fourth year in a row, the Interact Club has decided to organize a teen gift drive for the holidays. A box has been placed in each classroom and all students in the school are encouraged to make small donations to the drive if they are able.



Brody and Annabelle agreed that the gift drive is really special to students because they know that they are donating gifts that will be given to youth their age and within their community.

"It seems like sometimes teenagers might be forgotten about at Christmas time, as if they wouldn't appreciate gifts in the same way younger kids would," Annabelle said. "We want them to know that people are Interact Club co-presidents Brody Bolger and Annabelle Borgdorff lead the team in organizing the annual teen gift drive at HHSS. /BRITNEY **PAGLIUCA Staff**

thinking about them and that they deserve to have something special too."

HHSS teacher and Interact Club organizer Christine Carr noted that students have special insight into what kinds of items would be most appreciated. "They know better than anyone what gifts teens in the county would like to receive," she said.

Last year the Interact Club put together seventy gift bags for teens in the community. But Brody said that this year their goal is to reach triple digits.

The donated gifts will be collected next week to be sent to local food banks. Those within the community looking to contribute can bring items to the main office or contact Christine Carr at christine.carr@tldsb.on.ca. Monetary donations are also appreciated and would be used to purchase gift cards.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with

December 14 - Regular Council Meeting

a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance

with the Municipality Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by

aspx or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas

are not displayed during the meeting; please download by visiting our

CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx.

Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the

attending in-person or a live-stream link available on the Township CivicWeb Portal at mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.

noted. The scheduled upcoming meeting is:

duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

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The Agnes Jamison Gallery is now displaying selections from the permanent collection including new acquisitions by André Lapine ARCA (1866-1952). The Gallery is open to the public Tuesday – Sunday from 10 am - 4 pm. The Gallery will be closed from December 25 to January 1, 2024 for the holidays. For more information, please call 705-286-3763 or email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca

CULTURAL CENTRE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Be prepared for winter driving, always tell someone where you are going and when you get there and try to have half a tank of gas or more. Keep the following items in, or on, your vehicle. Snow tires; sand and small shovel; tow rope and reflectors; windshield washer fluid; a bag with a blanket, cell phone power pack and cord, first aid kit, flashlight, hot paws,

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING -COMPREHENSIVE FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday. December 14. 2023, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding the Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-law.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

It's not a race, give plows space! Plows can't see you and you can't see the road ahead. Plows are extra wide and throw snow and spray, making it difficult to see if the road ahead is clear for passing. The safest place is well behind the plow.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE FOUNDATION

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Wednesday, December 13 at 4 pm. All members of the MHCCF are welcome to attend. Please email mindenhillsccfoundation@gmail.com for more information

Collecting for a cause

The Minden Hills Firefighters Association partnered with the Haliburton Huskies to raise funds and gather food and toy donations for the Minden Food Centre. Donations were collected at the Canadian Tire store, a sponsor of the drive. They also hosted a fundraiser at the Huskies' game on Sunday, Dec. 3, which included a silent auction, a 50/50 draw, and a boot drive. The Firefighters Association and the Haliburton Huskies extend special thanks to the many local business sponsors, volunteers, and all those who donated. Together, they raised \$3705 and collected over twenty boxes of food and toys for local families in need. Pictured, chairman, Don Veno and manager, Jean Munroe of the Minden Food Bank receive donations that were collected through the Minden Hills Firefighters Association charity drive. / BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

Slow progress on the physician recruitment front

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Since the Minden ER closed its doors in June of this year, the hot topic of physician recruitment has been a buzz term in the Haliburton Highlands.

When Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) made the decision to close down the Minden ER site, they alluded to a shortage of staff as one of their main reasons.

The county of Haliburton currently has Wendy Welch in the role of physician recruitment coordinator; a role that has been fairly quiet to the public aside from the occasional presentation to county council. Physician recruitment falls within the county's economic

development department.

On their website, a tab through the My Haliburton Highlands web page, the recruitment page is filled with incentives and objectives for bringing physicians to the community. This includes the Haliburton County Return of Service Incentive, which totals \$25,000 a year for up to six years for full-time practice commitment, the Northern Rural Recruitment and Retention (NRRR) program, totaling \$91,000 over four years, and the Canada Student Loan Forgiveness for family doctors, where physicians could receive \$40,000 in loan forgiveness.

The website also notes that there are currently eight full time physicians in the region, and they are seeking at least five more to join the team, in order to support the 10,600 pa-

tients, and the 1400 on the waitlist.

In a report to council on Oct. 25, Welch outlined the initiatives that are underway in an attempt to reach this goal, such as housing the county has secured in both Minden and Haliburton to offer accommodations for physicians. The report included additional fees the county will include in the 2024 operational budget to ensure the homes are cleaned and maintained for physicians.

Welch also outlined a series of recruitment fairs and conferences the county has attended in an attempt to highlight the region, but noted trends that have been observed through the recruitment process, including the fact that "Physicians appear more interested in learning about locum opportunities and not settling into a community," read the report.

The report goes on to highlight an ad the county ran with the British Medical Journal, which ran for five weeks, with 22 physicians submitting their CV. From that number though, only half were eligible based on the country they received their medical training from.

At this time, only applicants from the UK,

Ireland, Australia, and the United States are eligible to practice medicine in Canada.

It was noted in the report that Welch intends to follow through with a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA), which is necessary when bringing in physicians who are not permanent residents of Canada.

The county must show proof of attempting to hire in Canada, followed by candidates visiting the community for an assessment, followed by a formal application to be completed by the employer; which would come at a cost to the county of \$1000 per applicant. These items will be noted in the 2024 budget in the works.

This process was recently completed by the nearby Kinmount and District Family Health Centre's Foundation, and was met with success when they recruited Dr. Lesslie Ponraja to their team full time earlier in the year.

The *Times* reached out to Welch to inquire about any updates on this report since it was presented to council in October, and Welch declined the opportunity for interview, noting that no changes have been made since. "The report is still accurate," she said.



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Regional health team launches service platform

by JAMES MATTHEWS

 $Local\ Journalism\ Initiative\ Reporter$

The Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Ontario Health Team (KLH-OHT) launched a one-stop avenue by which people can avail of services.

The new online health and wellbeing service navigation platform was designed with communities in mind and allows users to easily search for local programs and services offered by providers in Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County. When users visit the website, they can easily find available services close to home and, in some cases, can self-refer or book an appointment directly through the platform.

This online navigation platform focuses on enhancing access to programs and services for older adults, as well as mental health and addictions services, and child and youth services.

It also serves as a means of supporting referrals between local service providers to ensure residents have access to all available supports and services.

"The launch of this platform continues the KLH-OHT's work towards increasing navi-

gation support and our goal for our communities is to ensure that everyone has access to supportive community resources," said Stephanie MacLaren, KLH-OHT executive director.

"The new service navigation platform provides better access to those points of care and furthers a 'no wrong door' approach in accessing supports and services."

The team has also introduced a new navigator function that allows residents to speak directly with a representative about their health service navigation questions. If residents have questions about accessing health services, they can contact the representative at 705-934-1439.

"Sometimes finding and accessing the right health programs can be a challenge and you just want a voice on the phone to help you find what you are looking for," said Christine Keenan, a team navigation representative.

"The KLH-OHT is here to support our community by helping residents connect to local supportive programs. Help is just a phone call away."

Visit klhoht.ca/find-services to view the new service navigation platform and explore health and wellbeing programs available for self-referral

Minden Hills finds supplier for landfill plates

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

When a request for tenders doesn't work out, sometimes you have to put shoe leather to pavement and hunt a supplier.

That was the case, figuratively, when Minden Hills public works staff issued a request for tender to supply steel landfill covers plates. The last RFP was issued in June and didn't receive any interest.

"This went to tender essentially three times now," Mike Timmins, public works director, told Minden council during its Nov. 30

"We re-tendered twice this year with zero responses. So we went out individually to different contractors until we found somebody."

Steel landfill cover plates are used as an alternative to daily cover. They are applied over the working areas of the landfill site at the end of each day. They minimize windblown scatter of garbage, wildlife, as well as the need for daily soil cover.

Staff reached out to Draper Industrial Contracting Ltd. of Dunsford to determine if they were interested in this work and to ob-

"They have completed many steel cover projects for municipalities, including the City of Kawartha Lakes. Draper Industrial Contracting Ltd. bid on a similar tender issued by the township in 2021 but was not the successful proponent. The successful propo-



"We re-tendered twice this year with zero responses.

- MIKE TIMMINS,

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, MINDEN



nent awarded the work in 2021 did not fulfill their obligations and the work was never completed.

In recent discussions with Draper Industrial Contracting Ltd., they have indicated interest in working with the township to complete this work.

This project was included in the approved 2023 capital budget for \$50,000.

The quote received from Draper Industrial Contracting Ltd. was in the amount of \$46,900 plus HST and it is for three cover plates as well as delivery.

Timmins said that, with the HST rebate, this project will fall within the 2023 approved capital budget of \$50,000.

He said the plates should be delivered by the end of the year.

MH anticipates staff crunch with STR legislation

by JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Minden Hills is bracing for a rush of shore road allowance purchases when the countywide short-term rental legislation comes into

Haliburton County has been looking at ways the local short-term rental (STR) market can be regulated for a little more than a year. Part of that process was looking at the mechanisms and legislation adopted by other jurisdictions.

Stephen Stone, the county's planning director, said during council's regular meeting Sept. 13 that the draft bylaw was brought to each of the county's four municipalities.

He said it was pointed out by some of the municipalities' planners that sleeping cabins or bunkies would conflict with their respective zoning bylaws. As such, they suggested sleeping cabins not be permitted for shortterm rentals.

Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter said there's always been questions about outbuildings and bunkies and whether they can be rented separately or as part of the main rented structure.

"Every municipality sort of did treat the bunkies slightly differently in their plans," he said. "So there was some cleanup on that."

Another detail of the proposed rules is that a person can't have a short-term rental property if the shore road allowance isn't owned by them.

Consider a long-time cottage owner where the corner of the property is on an open road allowance along a lake, he said.

"There is a prohibition that you could not use that property for a short-term rental," Carter said.

Obtaining a road allowance requires permitting, surveying, going through the municipal planning department.

"There's only so many of them that we can process," Carter said. "My concern was, at the time when the short-term rental (rules) goes into law, all of the sudden ... we get 100 or 200 applications from people who now need to make their property legal for this new legislation. We can't process them.

"We don't have the capability."

None of the councillors from the other municipalities seemed to put much weight to Carter's scenario being a cause for concern.

"I don't know if it's an issue," he said. "I just suspect it could be."

"I agree there isn't possibly the staff resources to process these," said Councillor Tammy McKelvey.

Carter said the only thing that could alleviate such a crunch in Minden is if a third party is contracted to administer the STR program.

The county's Department of Finance has been working on a request for proposals to draw potential third-party service providers that would implement STR permitting and monitor compliance by operators.

"Until we know what that (third party contract) is going to cost, we don't know what the licensing fees have to be," Carter said.



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Know better, do better

Editor

E'RE ALL allowed to make mistakes. Allowed to not know everything that may traipse on toes and ruffle feathers along the way.

But the way we raise our kids is that once you know better, you do better. And it really is okay not to know. But once the facts are presented, once the truth comes to light, you now have the choice to make things right.

I guess Dysart council never got this memo.

And yes, this is an editorial sparked by the recent decision made to keep the name Sam Slick

Park. And since the tiny plot of land resides in the geographical boundaries of Haliburton, I recognize this may not seem like a Minden issue.

But in reality, the changing of historical **EMILY STONEHOUSE** names is a conversation happening all around us; blurring lines and cracking open parts of our history that are far from prideful.

In April of 2022, Ryerson University's board of governors unanimously approved a motion to rename the facility "Toronto Metropolitan University", effective immediately. The change came in light of learning that Egerton Ryerson, the namesake for the facility, was instrumental in developing and supporting residential schools across Canada.

Once the reality of the bloodied past emerged, the school officials knew better. So they did better.

When the Cultural Resources Committee brought the truth to Dysart council last week, identifying the reality of Sam Slick - a character created by Thomas Chandler Haliburton who was sexist, racist, and just generally disgusting - they

were seeking an opportunity to do better. To acknowledge the past, yes, but to move forward in a way that is inclusive and non-offensive.

Suddenly, Dysart council knew

But did they do better? Absolutely not.

"It was supposed to be satirical" they chimed. Like they were all in on the joke. And just because they're not at the butt end of it, it rolled off their backs like water droplets on a duck.

But the reality of the fact is that honouring a person who hurt others still stings. Celebrating a character who caused harm isn't doing better.

> And I am not trying to erase history. We can't sweep the grim realities of our past under the rug and pretend we've always been this community that exudes inclusion and non-bias. Because that's not the reality of the world.

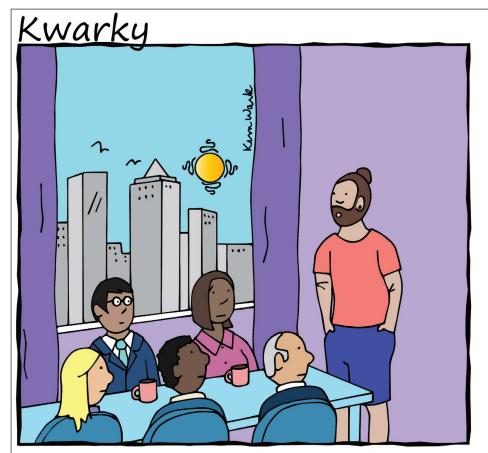
But we are all learning. All navigating

the muddied history and figuring out ways to create a world that's more inclusive, supportive, and kind. We are knowing better, so it's time to do

As we move forward with naming and honouring spaces in this town, maybe we take a good hard look at who we are celebrating. Whether we choose to honour the Indigenous people who walked here before us. or the firefighters who have saved lives, the teachers who have shaped our kids, the artists who have added colour to our world, or the people who make our community kinder.

When we have so many options, why opt for a racist, bigoted cartoon character from a century ago? What message are we choosing to celebrate with that?

We know better, so it's time to do better.



"As your new CEO, my first order of business is to change 'deadline' to 'soft squiggle."

Fancy footwork F YOU EVER wanted to combine a cling wrapped to can stay to

reality show with Dancing with the Stars, I would suggest you take a camera out the day after an ice storm and just follow a couple of outdoorsmen or women trying to climb or descend some of our local

I guarantee, if you stick around long enough, you'll see some fairly fancy footwork there.

And if you watch a pair, you might even see a few moves that they will be horrified that you caught on video.

You see, when it comes to falling in the bush, there is no honour among outdoorsy types.

If someone is going down, they are going to reach for the first thing that they will use to break their fall. Most times, that's the nearest person.

To most people cling wrap is something you wrap a sandwich in. To an experienced outdoorsman or

woman in winter, cling-wrap is merely a signature move.

I am not what you would call a world class cling-wrapper, but I am fairly accomplished, I suppose. If I have any faults at all, it is that I often vocalize warnings like "Yeeee!" or "Aiiiii!" prior to desperately grabbing some part of my travelling companion's anatomy (that is not inappropriate) as I am slipping. This verbalization of preslip panic is often my undoing.

But, if I do end up catching hold of something, I make up for my ineptness with the wrapping part. Not to brag, but despite my advancing years, this is my strong suit. I am able to transition from the simple death grip on the coat sleeve to a full, four-limbed, spider monkey hug in the blink of an eye.

The hope is that the person you have

cling wrapped to can stay upright – which is easier if you try to distribute your weight evenly and below their shoulders. If not, the next best thing to wish for is that they can break your fall. For that is the best any outdoors enthusiast could hope for in times

Of course, the cling wrapper can only do so much. The cling wrappee also needs to hold up their end – and other parts – so that both travellers do not start tumbling down the hill eventually evolving into an eightlimbed snowball.

> Frankly, I choose my winter travelling companions based on this ability alone.

If you haven't actually witnessed your winter companion audition for the role of cling wrappee, it's best to look for a few physical characteristics that indicate the person is built for the job.

Large feet are one. They provide a sturdier base and better gripping platform to keep that person upright, even as they are

trying to unwrap you. A low centre of gravity also helps. In

short, the ideal winter travelling companion is a circus clown.

Conversely, top heavy, broad-shouldered types generally tip easier when the additional weight of a flailing person is wrapped around their neck. Also, it's best to avoid anyone on a snowboard or unicycle.

The point is, if you do it right, without providing any warning, you will not tumble or, at the very least, you will have a softer landing.

Lastly, I think it is fair to note that none of what I have just disclosed to you should ever be shared with your travelling

That can be problematic if he is carrying a seltzer bottle.



STEVE GALEA Beyond 35

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

To tie or not to tie

▼ OCIETY'S DEEP thinkers have varying theories on the three stages of life. Like childhood, adulthood, and old age. Or, learning, working, and teaching.

I discovered a theory of my own the other day while rummaging through my clothes closet.

The first stage of life is acquiring stuff. Stage two is using the stuff, followed by stage three - getting rid of stuff.

The last stage is the hardest. I confirmed that while staring into my closet jam packed with stuff I haven't used in years and might never use again.

I mean how could I possibly discard my collection of neckties, none of which I have worn in years?



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

I have some treasured beauties. Power ties, fun ties. Ties that brighten the day. Ties for darker days saddened by funerals.

The most spectacular on my rack is a red and gold checkered tie that likely cost more than all the others combined. It is 100 per cent pure silk and was a gift from a visiting Korean news executive.

That's my favourite necktie but I can't remember when I last wore it. It turns out that many other folks have not put on a necktie in ages.

Neckties, I'm told, are out of style despite having been an important feature of men's dress for a long

time. A Gallup poll found that 67 per cent of men no longer wear neckties to work. Another poll found that only six per cent wear a tie on a daily

Neckties traditionally symbolized authority and power. Their history goes back thousands of years.

Egyptian mummies have been found with knotted clothes around their necks. The Egyptians believed that knots held and released magic.

The bodies of ancient Chinese men, plus statues of men, have been found with various neck cloths believed to symbolize the ranks of soldiers.

Later, the French who really liked the idea of neck cloths, made them a high society fashion they called the cravat. As the cravat or necktie gained popularity it was seen as

a symbol of decorum, elegance, and respect, as well as an opportunity for self-expression.

After the Second World War the military connection with neckties faded greatly and more colours and styles appeared. Wider and louder ties appeared and now ties have a wide variety of colours, patterns and widths. The standard necktie now is 3.5 inches wide and 57 inches long.

For me the most important thing about a necktie is how you knot it. The most common knot is the Four-in-Hand knot, or schoolboy knot, that is relatively small, narrow and not symmetrical.

Early in my childhood my dad taught me how to tie a Windsor knot, which is triangular, wider, symmetrical and said to project confidence.

My dad and other men of his era would not be happy to see how ties are knotted these days, no matter what knot is used. They lived in times when neckties were carefully tied, snugged neat against the top of the collar and never left loosely sloppy.

Today neckties seem to be worn as an afterthought. They often are sloppily tied, knots crookedly below unbuttoned collars. Bottom tie tip hanging below the belt line.

Ties serve no real purpose these days. The ways people view each other have changed, so more casual dress probably makes sense.

However, guys wearing ties remain a big attraction for women. A recent study by well-known American psychologist C. Nathan DeWall found that women still love to see men in neckties, either at work or at social events

An earlier study reported that 72 per cent of women are turned on when a

Although I've reached that third stage of life when I should be disposing of all sorts of unused stuff, I think I'll hang on to my neckties. You never know when they might make a comeback.

As Lee Iacocca, the now deceased former Ford Motor Company president, once said:

"When neckties went from narrow to wide, I kept all my old ones until the style went back to narrow."

Small business owners are being strangled by red tape

FRANK STRONACH

Principles

VER THE past month, small business owners have shared with me some of their personal stories and their frustrations.

Far too many small businesses in Canada are struggling and a growing number are simply throwing in the towel and closing up shop.

Why is that?

Many of these small business owners point to the costs and delays created by unnecessary regulations and red tape, a prob-

lem that is growing worse and worse year by year. In other words, we're shackling our small businesses with bureaucratic chains - and we need to throw off those chains so they can succeed.

I received an email last week from the owner of a manufacturing company who agreed that red tape was choking so many small businesses like hers, and that she had written

to government officials on many occasions to complain about the needless regulations and red tape, but never even received a response.

I also received an email from a small business owner in the Niagara region. Here's what he said: "It has become increasingly challenging to run a profitable business in Ontario (I assume it is the same across all provinces), compete against overseas companies that export tariff free into our country, employ local labour, and then have to pay the tax rates we have to pay."

He cited "red tape bureaucracy and certification costs on products" as factors that contribute to an erosion of profits for many businesses. Ultimately, he said, "there comes a tipping point where no further cost cutting measures or staff reductions are possible, and then closure follows."

He concluded his email by noting that "current political leaders don't seem to understand the realities on the street level for small businesses, and what will happen to the Canadian economy should the small business sector slowly evaporate as it becomes increasingly pointless to be a small business owner."

These and other stories shared by National Post readers raise the question – why do we keep placing so many hurdles and obstacles in their way?

Governments from across the political spectrum have talked about the need to cut red tape and reduce regulations. Some governments, such as the provincial government here in Ontario, even have cabinet ministers whose portfolio is focused on reducing red tape.

But progress has been painfully slow.

And often times, whenever one level of government chops some needless regulations, another level of government imposes even more. We're spinning our wheels.

Most small business owners would agree - we need to put an immediate halt to the introduction of any new regulations, and we need to start cutting the tangle of red tape that's holding small business

back, eating into their profits, and ultimately making them less competitive.

The best way to do that is through the establishment of a new national Economic Charter of Rights and Responsibilities, something I've been advocating for quite a while now.

The Economic Charter would give important economic rights to small business owners while imposing on government the responsibility to create the right economic environment so that small business can succeed, including removing all the red tape and bureaucratic chains holding business back.

To learn more about the economic charter and how it could help Canadians and Canada's small businesses, email me at info@economiccharter.ca. Or to learn more about the economic charter, please visit: www.economiccharter.ca.

Frank Stronach is the founder of Magna International Inc., one of Canada's largest global companies, and was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

fstronachlpc@gmail.com

HCPL's Book of the Week

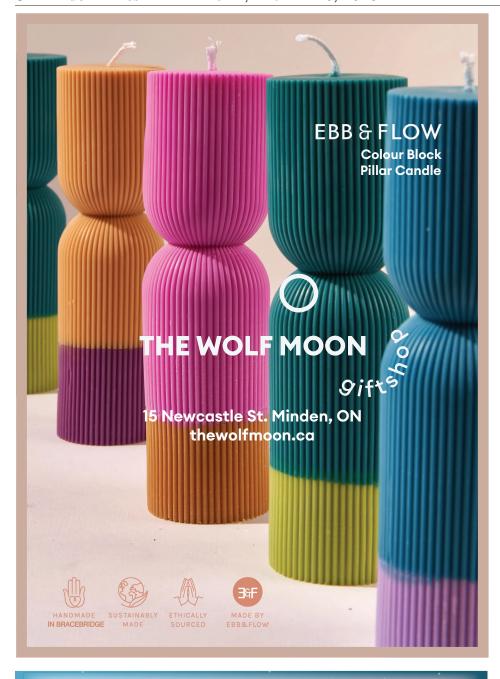


Iris has moved to New York to restart her life and as she explores the city, a little family-run gelateria catches her eye - could it be the same shop that's in an old photo of her mother's?

Curious, Iris returns the next day and meets Gio, who tells her that the shop is in danger of closing. His uncle, sole keeper of their family's gelato recipe, is in a coma. When Iris samples the last remaining batch, she realizes that it tastes the same as the gelato her mother used to make. But how can she tell them she knows their secret recipe when she's not sure how her mother got it in the first place?

Iris offers to help them re-create the recipe and finds herself falling for Gio. But when Gio's uncle finally wakes up, all of the secrets Iris has been keeping threaten to ruin the new life-and new love-she's been building all winter long.

A Winter in New York by Josie Silver is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.



Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2023

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.



Partners: Haliburton Chrysler - 13533 Highway 118 Ridgewood Ford - 12560 Highway 35

Other locations in Minden and Haliburton: Cordell Carpet, Haliburton Home Hardware, Minden Home Hardware, Hudson Henderson Insurance Broker Haliburton/Minden, CIBC Minden, Ommmh, Minden Post Office, TD Bank Minden Emmerson Lumber Ltd - Maple Ave. Kohara & Co - Industrial Park Rd. Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC

Drop off for the 4C's in Haliburton is Dec 8th and other location Dec 15th





letters to the editor

Worried about local taxpayers

To the Editor,

My name is Lisa Neighbour, and I'm a visual artist and a resident of the city of Toronto. I've visited a friend's cottage near Minden, and we often shopped for groceries in town. I bought myself a souvenir t-shirt with a giant mosquito on it, saying something like "welcome to Minden"! I know you're more than just about mosquitos, but I thought I should make you laugh before I ask for your help....

I wanted to tell you about the proposed demolition of Ontario Place here on our waterfront, and the plans to lease the land to a private Austrian spa for 99 years. The provincial government also wants to move the Ontario Science Centre to this location, and charge every taxpayer in the province for an underwater parking lot for customers. None of the fine print on this deal has been made public. Maybe a few of you are yawning, and asking me to get to the point!

The point is, how often do you visit a private spa? In Toronto? This project will cost us taxpayers an estimated \$650 million dollars. You know these estimates rarely go down. If this project is allowed to go forward, every taxpayer in the

province would be forced to contribute to a private luxury spa, located on public lands, where they have clear-cut hundreds of trees and evicted all the wildlife. I'm very concerned that the Provincial Government is wasting our taxes on something that will only be enjoyed by the very few. I feel that the money would be better spent on our health care, affordable housing, roads and infrastructure - on projects for the benefit of evervone in the province.

How can ordinary citizens help? You can begin by going to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website and tracking down your local representative. (https://www.ola.org/en/members/current) Once you know who's representing you at Queen's Park, let them know by phone, email, letter, or in person that you expect them to truly represent you, and make sure your taxes are spent on things that help everyone, not just some pampered, rich, bougie people in Toronto. That's not me I promise!

Thank you for listening.

Lisa Neighbour, **Toronto**

ATAC social highlights importance of movement

by VIVIAN COLLINGS

Times Staff

Aging Together as Community (ATAC) presented their holiday social this past Sunday to encourage connection and offer a look into some of the programs that keep minds and bodies moving in the Highlands.

Under the theme "Stay Upright and Be Active", the social included a Tai Chi demonstration and speakers from Sit to Fit bodies, BE Health, and the Alzheimer Society.

With 55 in attendance, organizers were pleased with the enthusiasm that filled the Haliburton United Church for the three-hour social on Dec. 2.

"Today really combined a lot of useful information around the importance of movement and exercise at the same time as the socialization aspect when people get together in a group," said organizer Bonnie Roe. "It was just a snipping of each program to bring awareness to the community of what is out there and the importance of both movement and cognitive stimulation."

Roe said it was an excellent way to send off ATAC's 2023 year.

Minds in Motion with the Alzheimer Society

Jennifer Stubbert and Melissa-anne Foster are coordinators for the Minds in Motion program in the County with the Alzheimer

"The program is for anybody who has any form of memory loss with their care partner to attend together," Stubbert said.

It incorporates one hour of exercise with one hour of cognitive stimulation and social interaction for eight weeks at a time.

"It's a great time. We leave the memory loss at the door, we come in, we have fun, socialize and do trivia, brain games, bingo, anything that gets people laughing and active," she said.

The program has been in operation since

"We've had such a great response. The groups are getting bigger and bigger," Stubbert said.

Minds in Motion runs once a week for eight weeks. It will next be in Haliburton County in March.

Stubbert has worked for the Alzheimer Society for 20 years.

"It's my passion. We love what we do and have a lot of fun. It's really rewarding. A lot of people don't get to go to work and say they get to hang out with their family, because they really do become family," Stubbert said.

ATAC conference

Aging Together as Community will host its first full-day conference at Pinestone Resort on Jan. 27, 2024 called Inspiring Creativity, Empowering Change.

"As we move into 2024, we're so excited about our conference. We'll have some amazing keynote speakers and there's an intergenerational component which will show how younger generations view aging,

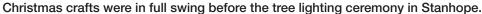
More information about ATAC's New Year conference will be available in the coming weeks.



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com







Algonquin **Highlands** holidays

Santa came to visit Stanhope on Dec. 2 before their annual tree lighting in the evening. /TIM YANO special to the Times

The evils of ageism

E SHOULD probably retire the word retirement. There are many reasons. It doesn't mean what it traditionally meant. It doesn't accurately reflect life. It triggers ageism. It ignites generational and political warfare. It's unaffordable at both the individual and social level.

In 1965, Canada instituted the Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) which defined 65 as the age of retirement. At that time the life expectancy of men, who comprised the bulk of the work force that would qualify for CPP, was 68. Now it's almost 83 (less for men -80.62 years, 84.67 for women).



FAY MARTIN Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

So the plan designed to ease the passage from workplace to grave has had to stretch the period of time it covered by about nine times. And counting: life expectancy inches up.

Put another way, the time between when we are expected to leave our working life until we are expected to die has gone from two years to 18 years over a mere six decades. Combined with the shape of Canadian de-

mography, the big belly of boomers now spilling into retirement age, there is increasing concern that we can't afford our aging populating. A smaller working generation worries about supporting a larger 'dependent' generation. (In stats talk, a dependent is everyone under 19 and over 65.) And the fire under the pot is that the larger older generation has the lion's share of wealth, is hogging the high-paying jobs, is driving the cost of housing to unaffordable heights. It's a recipe for ageism.

Ageism is not a good thing. Lisa Taylor of the Challenge Factory calls ageism 'the last socially acceptable form of prejudice.' It is more harmful than being spoken to simply and loudly as if you had the IQ of a caterpillar, or making/ being expected to laugh at Old Fart jokes; it is the expectation that at some imposed point in time, say age 65, your value as a human being has reached its best-before date. You have statistically become a dependant. You are officially a drain on productivity. Logically, you - from the perspective of our money-based society – are better off dead. (Catherine Bradbury, in a lengthy article in the Dec 2023 edition of the Walrus on which this article draws heavily, cites a Yale prof, Yusuke Narita, who in 2021 suggested Japan's aging problem, which is further along than ours, be solved by mass suicide and disembowelment of seniors; he scarcely walked back the comment when challenged and he has 600,000 followers on Twitter/X. Perhaps we should be

But the dependents, the over-65s, in fact play a major role in making the economy hum. They are spending that accumulated wealth. 25 per cent of those age 65 to 75 are still employed in the old-fashioned sense of the word, earning a salary. (In some places – Japan is mentioned – they are

doing essential jobs that younger workers will not do. In other circumstances, they are developing alternate careers, treading occupational roads not taken, or abandoning senior paid positions to return to the craft work they loved.) They are paying taxes on their pensions, their earnings, and on savings not previously taxed. They are paying land taxes on their homes. Quite apart from the Golden Years advertisement of endless golf, lolling in Caribbean seas, downing cocktails and eating caviar in lavish cruise facilities, they are likely to be finding new purpose in their lives. This is captured by a Japanese word, "ikigai", meaning 'reason for being' and is a major factor in longevity. it is why the endless holiday version of retirement as it was originally conceptualized so often ended in premature death.

Most importantly, however, aside from their economic contributions, 'retirees' are providing wallops of unpaid labour that is essential to the well-being of the economy and of society generally. Personal care-giving to children, friends, family. Helming non-profit organizations that provide all the services the government no longer consider their business. Doing the dog work of keeping public spaces and services tidy and functional – grooming trails, minding gardens, driving people to appointments, delivering care packages. Practicing good health habits to reduce the probability of expensive illness. This is not dependence. This is unrecognized contribution.



In this respect, ageism is in sync with other kinds of prejudice: It's invisible. It's normalized. It's ingrained in everyday language and ways of doing things.

When you get caught being ageist, you may shrug and do your aw-gee version of an apology, and carry on because you meant no harm. But you are causing harm. You are excluding a valuable sector of society. You are demeaning a potent economic and social power. We retirees haven't withdrawn -- the literal meaning of retiring -- we've simply regrouped and are continuing to try and make the world a better place. Respect us, please.



Featuring Gord Kidd and Friends Saturday, Dec 9

Be part of our Seasonal Celebration.

Traditional Dinner

Soup or Salad and fresh roll to start Tender turkey Mashed potato, Broccoli salad Oven baked dressing Elli's corn casserole, Cranberry sauce Turkey Gravy Vegetarian Option Available

ONLY \$27+hst A portion supports local charity. Please Call for Reservations. Seatings at 5:30 and 7:30



113 Main St., Minden, DominionHotelPub.ca 705 286-6954

Canoe FM's Dave Allen moves on

by JERELYN CRADEN Special to the Times

You may recognize Dave Allen's dulcet tones on local radio commercials. Or, enjoy the Canoe FM pen he gave you. Or his awardwinning beer chili recipe that he tucked inside your hand. Some say Allen is the voice of Haliburton County. He certainly is Canoe FM's goodwill ambassador, driving around all these years in his Canoe FM mobile, building career-long relationships with local business owners, and helping new businesses get off the ground. He's a guy who makes it look easy, while behind the scenes, has worked 24/7 to help build the station from a start-up dream to its present-day status as award-winning and financially stable. Now that he's moving on, Allen shares memories as both the "advertising guy" and beyondthe-call volunteer.

Jim Frost, past president of the Haliburton & District Lions Club and major community volunteer had this to say: "Dave has been a godsend to Canoe FM, the way he works and deals with people. He does such a great job getting advertisers. In my work with the Lions Club, dealing with events like the Santa Claus Parade and the BIA, I meet a lot of people and they all talk very highly of Dave. Canoe has been lucky to have him."

Frost also spoke of Allen's volunteerism. "It was excellent when Dave entered the pa-



Dave Allen, long-standing sales representative with Canoe FM, has decided to retire from his role. /Photo by Jerelyn Craden

rade on behalf of Canoe driving his van with a canoe on top and Gerald McKnight riding shotgun." He added, "Any meeting I've been to where there's been an auditor or an accountant talking about Canoe's books, they have all said what terrific financial condition Canoe is in. They have to realize they're in that position, so much because of what Dave

Born in Montreal, Allen moved to Toronto in 1971 and spent the next 30 years in the hospitality industry. "My dad and I used to go hunting and fishing every year in the Laurentians, and when I first experienced the Haliburton Highlands in the 80s, it was like coming home."

In 2002, the Highlands became Allen's home. "One day, I'm knee deep in a trench installing a heat line when I get a call from Don Cameron, co-founder of Canoe FM. He asks if I'm still interested in the sales position that I had applied for months earlier. I race over there, walk into the station caked in mud, and see astonishment written all over the faces of Don and his two co-founders, Dave Sovereign and Jack Hewitt. After sharing my previous sales background in the hospitality industry, they say to me, 'If you have any other clothes, you're hired!"

Allen shows me a photo of Jack Lowe. "In the early days, Jack was our extraordinary volunteer engineer and was instrumental in getting the station used broadcasting equipment so we could get on the air. He had this fear about running into a bear, so I of-

ten had to escort him to the tower in Eagle Lake when there was a technical problem. And Don Cameron would tag me to go to the tower with him when there was dead air, once at four in the morning. We did what we had to do, like tending to a baby. The station was our baby."

Always looking for ways to better promote the station, Allen thought how great it would be for its phone number to be the same as its on-air call numbers: 100.9. "So, I dialed, 705-457-1009 and a fellow answered and said we could have the number for 109 cases of beer. Fortunately, I persisted and not long afterwards discovered that the line had been disconnected which we immediately

When Canoe started a popular segment called Pet Detective that reunited owners with their lost pets, Allen had three cocker spaniels of his own who would run off on a regular basis. He said, "Long time on-air host, Paul Cameron, remarked on one of his Sunday afternoon shows, after I called asking listeners to keep an eye out for my dogs: 'Dave, why don't you just record this message so we can play it every weekend?""

Ten volunteer presidents and revolving boards later, Allen feels especially grateful to stalwart Canoe volunteer, Mike Jaycock. 'With a radio and advertising background, Mike helped me in many respects, particularly with writing great scripts which enabled me to spend more time on sales."

One of Allen's favourite volunteer activities was to help set up Jaycock's version of Garrison Keillor's, "A Prairie Home Companion"-"The Highlands Radio Almanac" featuring local musical talent and personalities, broadcast from all four corners of the county, which put Canoe FM on the map in the summer of 2007.

Whatever is on Allen's horizon, it is with utmost certainty that his shoes at Canoe FM will be very hard to fill. Terry Gregorini, owner of Canadian Tire in Minden, will attest to that: "I've been involved with local advertising for nearly twenty years and by far, Dave Allen has been the best and most consistent provider of such services which led to (C.T.) being a major sponsor for Canoe FM's annual radiothon fundraiser for the past several years."

Sudoku brought to you by



SUDOKU

5 3 9 9 4 5 ***** 8 9 2 3 9

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 12



A pretty pair

A couple of **Trumpeter Swans** make an appearance on Horseshoe Lake on Saturday, Dec. 2. /Photo submitted by Mikaela Gordon

To the wall: ice climbing at Haliburton Forest

by EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's a sport that pushes you to your limits, that defies gravity, that leaves you feeling a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Ice climbing has been a winter staple in Haliburton County for years, but is only just starting to really gain popularity amongst locals and visitors alike.

But not all ice climbing experiences are the same. Haliburton Forest is setting out to create an experience that will feel supportive, safe, and memorable. "What sets this experience apart from the rest is the one-onone component of the session," said Tegan Legge, the general manager of the tourism recreation department at the Forest, "this is an intimate experience that allows people to feel really good once they complete the

Ice climbing was previously offered at the Forest through Yours Outdoors, with Lorne Foisy as the lead. With Foisy looking to take a step back in the business, the future of climbing in the county was on thin ice.

Luckily, Foisy offered the staff at Haliburton Forest first dibs on purchasing the gear that he had been using, and presented the opportunity for the facilitators at the Forest to take the lead on re-establishing the

Angie Grant, the group experiences and sales coordinator at the Forest said that offering ice climbing programs in-house will allow for the program to continue to become established. "I'm just so happy we are keeping this cool experience in Haliburton County," she said.



Cameron Ferguson takes a break on the West Shore wall during an ice climbing session last season. Haliburton Forest is hoping the conditions are ready by the new year. /photo submitted

The program is offered at the West Shore shuttled to directly from Base Camp and the

Crag, which is a location participants will be Forest. The natural ice wall offers opportuni-

ties for all experience levels to participate in the climb. "We will have gear available for those aged 12 and up," said Grant, "but we intend to offer the program to school groups who are visiting as well."

Leading the charge on facilitating the programs is the lead guide from Haliburton Forest, Ted Ruttan. Ruttan has no shortage of guiding experience on the property, from canoe trips to canopy tours and everything in between, and is excited about the opportunity to add another experience to his lineup.

"I used to climb a bunch when I lived out west," he shared, "and now being able to offer this at Haliburton Forest is also growing me as a guide. Plus, I get to be outside every day in the winter.'

Ruttan will lead groups under four participants, with Grant stepping in to offer support for climbers up to six in a group, which would be the maximum at any given time. The programs will be offered five days a week, from Wednesday through Sunday, with morning sessions and afternoon sessions daily.

"This is a high level, physical challenge," said Grant, "but there is no prior experience with ice climbing required to attend. Everyone can come and try it."

The season is set to start in mid-January, once the ice hardens down the rock wall safely for climbers. Grant hopes they will be able to climb until mid-March, to wind down with March break. Due to the layers of ice that form over the winter months, the experience can often carry itself longer than the average winter sport.

For more information or to register for ice climbing, visit www.haliburtonforest.com or www.yoursoutdoors.ca.





Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Contract Bridge

When: Every Tuesday, 9am - 12pm Where: Minden United Church basement,

Our weekly contract bridge has resumed. New members welcome. All levels of skill welcomed. **Ladies' Shopping Night**

When: Dec. 7, 5 to 8 p.m. Where: Various Haliburton Retailers Join participating Haliburton businesses for this year's annual Ladies' Shopping Night! Enjoy in-store sales, free hot chocolate, and giveaways Visit at least 5 stores for a chance to win 1 of 5 \$100 gift cards to a downtown BIA business of your choice. Get your passport from any

participating business. Christmas Open House

When: Friday Dec. 8, 7 to 9 p.m. Where: Red Cross Outpost, 2314 Loop Rd, Wilberforce

Jome and join us for good cheer, se goodies and hot apple cider. Contact: Barb Schofield, 705-448-2598, wilberforcebarb@

Rotary Community Christmas and

Skating Party When: Dec. 8, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Where: A.J. La Rue Arena, and Haliburton Legion
The Haliburton Rotary Club invites you to bring
Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 the whole family for a free evening of festive fun! Skating, music, hot chocolate, pizza and treats. Bring your camera for a picture with Santa.

Friends of the HCPL Book Sale

When: Dec. 9 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Where: Dysart Library Branch, 78 Maple Ave, Haliburton

A variety of gently read books: thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, children and youth selections, Canadian authors, fiction, science fiction/fantasy, sports, spiritual and other non-fiction books. Payment is by cash or cheque donation. All money raised by the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library supports library enhancements and programmes for all libraries in the county.

Kinmount Community Christmas Market When: Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Kinmount Community Centre,

2 Dickson Street

Celebrate Christmas in the village and stop by to see our vendors. Don't forget to check out the Artisans Market on the lower level.

Minden Legion Branch 636 Lunch - Monday to Friday

Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m. Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m.,

Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m. p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m. Every other Friday Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m.

to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

Fullerton scores goalie goal as Huskies win three in a row

by ALEX GALLACHER

Special to the Times

The Haliburton County Huskies capped off a historic week with three wins, one loss and one nationally heard highlight.

On the docket this week was the Cobourg Cougars, Brantford 99ers, Stouffville Spirit and Wellington Dukes. An even mix of easy and hard games the Huskies got to work last Monday at the Cobourg Community Centre.

Cancelled by the Cougars

This seasons Cougars have been a thorn in the side of the Huskies all year, most prominently the work of Andy Reist. The Huskies found themselves down by two only four minutes into the first period before Patrick Saini added goal #20 of the season to cut the lead in half. Cobourg added another courtesy of Jack Falkner, but the Huskies' Jack Staniland brought the game to within one before the first was up.

In what seemed like a glimmer of hope, Gavin McGahey-Smith tied the match at three, but the Cougars scored three straight to seal the deal and take home a 6-3 victory.

Knocking off the Niners

Heading to the hometown of Wayne Gretzky on Thursday, the Huskies looked to bounce back after the loss on Monday. Nick Lamont got the game going off on a good note as he

buried his 11th of the year, to make it 1-0.

Lucas Marshall, Isaac Larmand and Patrick Saini would all score in the second, but the Niners would get their only goal of the game to make it 4-1 after two.

To end off a dominant win, Alex Bradshaw got the monkey off his back and finally tallied his first career OJHL goal, while McGahey-Smith effectively ended the game with his fourth of the season to send the Huskies home with a 6-1 win. Logan Kennedy picked up the win, with the 99ers goaltender Berry making 51 saves on the night.

History in Wellington

Heading into Wellington, the Huskies looked to break the curse that has plagued them in the Lehigh Arena. The Huskies have failed to win there in a long time, and Friday night was a special one.

Down 1-0 heading into the third thanks to Will Whelton, the Huskies exploded.

Lucas Stevenson tied the game up at 1, with his 6th of the year coming at the 10:36 mark. Six minutes later and Antonio Cerqua would give the Huskies the lead, with his fourth of the season. However, the curse would officially be broken as the dagger would come from an unlikely source.

Prior to Friday only one goalie goal has ever been scored



Looking for an opportunity to serve your community or know someone who is?

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking residents to serve on the Committee of Adjustment for the 2024-2026 term.

Members will receive \$100.00 for each regular meeting attended, plus an additional \$10.00 per application, and are reimbursed for mileage associated with conducting site visits. Meetings are held at 9:30 AM on the last Monday of each month.

THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

The Committee of Adjustment considers applications for minor variances from the Township's Zoning By-law as set out in the Planning Act. A minor variance may allow property owners to use their land in a way which does not comply exactly with the requirements of the Zoning By-Law.

The Committee of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body made up of citizen representatives appointed by Council. Decisions made by the Committee of Adjustment may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT).

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and a cover letter to:

Clerk's Department
Committee of Adjustment Member
Township of Minden Hills
P.O. Box 359 - 7 Milne Street
Minden, ON., KOM 2KO
or by e-mail to:
sprentice@mindenhills.ca

Applications must be received by Friday, December 8, 2023.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about the collection and use of this information should be directed to the Clerk, Vicki Bull, Township of Minden Hills, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario, KOM 2K0 (705) 286-1260 ext. 515.



In a tight game against the Stouffville Spirit on Dec. 3, the Huskies won 2-1 in the final. /TIM YANO special to the *Times*

in the league, coming in 2012 from Gabe Grunwald of the Georgetown Raiders. That all changed that fateful Friday on the Quinte Isle, Brett Fullerton saw his chance to go for glory after a light dump in from the Dukes.

Without hesitation, he did the impossible. Burying that puck into the empty net, sealing up a 3-1 win for the Huskies and becoming the second goalie in OJHL history to score in regulation time.

The goal was heard around the country being retweeted by TSN's Jermaine Franklin and the CJHL governing body themselves

Fullerton actually apologized after the game, as his goal came during a one goal game. However, Huskies head coach Ryan Ramsay just laughed and congratulated his goalie on his cannon of a shot.

No Spirit for Stouffville

Finally back home after the week long road trip, the Huskies got back to work against the Spirit.

Stevenson got the party going at the 11:39 mark of the second period, as the Huskies pressed for their third straight win. Andoni Fimis tied the game at one, before Bradshaw iced the spirit with his second of the year short-handed.

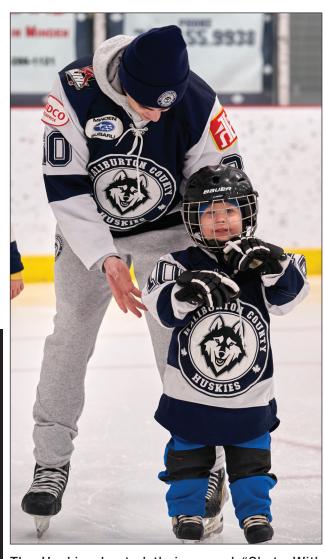
The Huskies rejoiced in a 2-1 dub, and with the wins they saw a rise in the standings drawing within two points of Lindsay

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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8	3	7	1	2	4	6	5	9
1	6	4	9	7	5	8	3	2
7	1	8	2	3	9	5	4	6
3	9	2	4	5	6	1	7	8
5	4	6	8	1	7	2	9	3
4	8	1	3	9	2	7	6	5
6	7	3	5	4	8	9	2	1
2	5	9	7	6	1	3	8	4

Upcoming games

This Friday the Huskies head to Aurora to take on the Tigers, before coming back home to end the week against the Pickering Panthers on Saturday.



The Huskies hosted their annual "Skate With Huskies" public skate following their game on Sunday, where fans of all ages got to come out and practice on the ice.



Sparkle season

With vendors from all over Haliburton County and beyond, visitors were sure to find something magical for the holidays.



The Holiday Market at Abbey Gardens saw well over 600 attendees, who visited for some Christmas shopping inside the tent on-site. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*



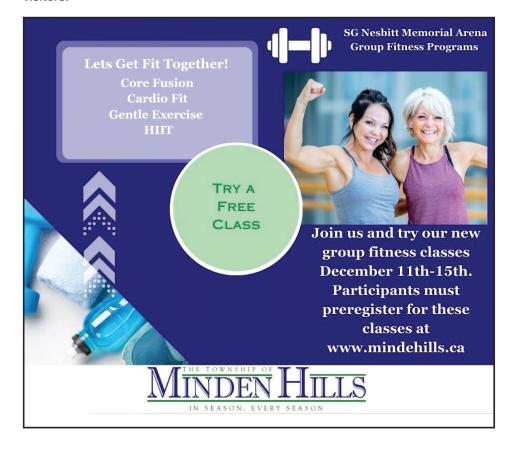
Friends stay toasty by the fire during the annual Abbey Gardens Holiday Market.



Artist Isabel Neveu-Geene speaks with customers at the holiday market.



The bar trailer on-site at Abbey Gardens was a hit serving seasonal drinks to visitors.





A Christmas Classic.

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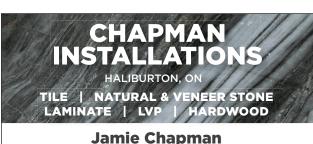
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Minden Times

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Job Description & Requirements: Languages-English, Education-Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience. Experience 2 years to less than 3 years work setting. Urban area willing to relocate. Retail business. Responsibilities/Tasks: Manage staff and assign duties. Determine merchandise and services to be sold. Locate, select and procure merchandise for resale. Develop and implement marketing strategies. Resolve problems that arise such as customer complaints and supply shortages. Plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate daily operations. Supervision 3-4 people. Experience and specialization in Computer and technology knowledge Point of sale system Inventory control software. Additional information: Security and safety Driver's validity licence Transportation/travel information:

Own transportation, public transportation is not available. Work conditions and physical capabilities: Fast-paced environment Handling heavy loads Attention to detail. Combination of sitting standing walking. Standing for extended periods. Salary Range: \$38 to \$44.00 Email Resumes to hamzaakhalidd@gmail.com

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400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



A Foundation for the Health of the Highlands

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Would you like to be part of the fundraising team working to optimize health and wellbeing in Haliburton County? Do you have a passion for community building and local health care?

We are looking for a dynamic full-time Administrative Associate to be the first point of contact in the HHHS Foundation office and to support a small fundraising team. Duties range from reception to donation processing, financial reporting to volunteer management and more. The successful candidate will be wellorganized, computer savvy, and able to juggle multiple priorities.

We look forward to hearing from interested applicants by 6pm Monday, **December 18, 2023**

Melanie Klodt Wong, Executive Director HHHS Foundation, mklodtwong@hhhs.ca

Please visit hhhs.ca/about/careers for the full job posting and hhhs.ca/foundation to learn more about the HHHS Foundation.



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Haliburton County Public Library Requires

CEO/County Librarian

The selected applicant will be responsible for the success of the library through implementation of the mission, vision, values and strategic priorities as identified by the Library Board; developing, resourcing, and evaluating operational plans; managing and leading library staff, and representing the library in the broader community. Minimum qualifications; Master of Library and Information Studies from and ALA accredited institution. Five years' related experience in a library environment, including a minimum of three years of supervisory experience.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Please forward your resume to lbacikzanetti@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than 4:30pm on December 08, 2023.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



Minden Times

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540 COMING EVENTS

Tickets available at the Minden Animal Hospital, 4 Booth St. \$20 per Raffle Ticket. Cash only. Must be 19 Years of Age or Older

Raffle ticket to be drawn Friday December 15 @ 12 noon.





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435 VOLUNTEERS

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity that works to reduce food insecurity in the surrounding areas, is seeking new volunteers to join our Board of Directors. We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communications skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental, healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills. If you have skills, time, and experience in any of the following management disciplines: general administration, financial, asset campaign, or social media, plus the desire to help, we would like to hear from you by January 5 2024. Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interests in food insecurities, program ideas to support our mandate, your background, skill set, and experience. Send your e-mail to mcfc.BoardMembers@gmail.com.

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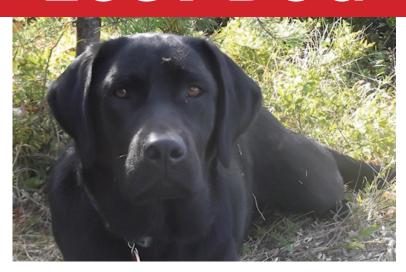
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www.haliburtonchamber.com

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce has seen a fantastic year and we look forward to meeting new members, creating more events and bringing unique experiences to the community in 2024.

Thank you to all who have supported the Chamber and engaged with our events.

We would like to wish all our Chamber Members and fellow community members a safe and happy holiday season & New Year.

The Chamber Advantage

- Unifying your voice at the provincial and national level
- Connect with your Community and Colleagues
- Leverage savings through Affinity Programs and
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Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce



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Chamber Members

Add your business to this monthly chamber page

Cost is \$35 once a month in the Echo or Times. Call Laura for Details at 705 457 1037 Ext. 32



Christmas open house

The bed and breakfast operators of the Highlands opened their doors to the public this weekend. It was their first ever Christmas open house and from all reports the tour attracted an enthusiastic group. Nine bed and Breakfast establishments were all decked out for the Christmas season, many featuring festive music and refreshments. Those with a Christmas Tour passport, could also stop by the Rails End Gallery afternoon tea. The proceeds from the tour will be donated to the Halibuton Highlands Guild of Fine Arts. Lenore Pristol of Ingoldsby and her granddaughter, Liz Chapman of Lindsay, below were two of the many visitors at Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast while Joan Meadows, right, greeted visitors with her Christmas crafts at the Down Home Bed and Breakfast in Haliburton.



Minden facility

Hospital on the move **December 12**

by Matthew Sitler

The new Minden Hospital will open its doors in less than two weeks

'Officially, we will be moving into the site on December 11 and 12," said Haliburton Highlands Health Services Executive Director Foster Loucks. "We will try to maintain normal operations, but there is likely to be some disruption during the move," he added.

The move will be co-ordinated with the Haliburton Ambulance Service so that they are aware of the change in location and exactly when it occurs. The executive director is asking that, during the transition, only people with true emergencies go to the hospital for treatment. Those who may consider using it as a walk-in clinic are asked to use other services in the community or

(more on page 3)

O'Reilly adds to Liberal victory

By Matthew Sitler

Incumbent Liberal MP John O'Reilly took the Victoria-Haliburton-Brock riding last Monday evening with a stunning lead over the other three party candidates

Early during election eve, O'Reilly commented that he felt the race was between himself and Conservative Candidate Laurie Scott. What the polls showed by night's closing was a strong second place finish for Alliance Candidate Pat Dunn.

O'Reilly's win was just part of a province-wide Liberal sweep that crushed all Canadian Alliance Party in-

The final numbers were: 16,564 votes for O'Reilley; 15, 505 for Pat Dunn; and Laurie Scott third with 14, 426 votes; NDP Candidate Rick Denyer with 2,396 The re-elected Liberal MP holds aspirations to be-

come House Speaker during his next term in Ottawa saying he would like to make changes to the institution.

O'Reilly, who campaigned on the strength of his past record, defended the early election call saying the end of November was the only date until next fall which was



In a pensive mood, Liberal MP John O'Reilly watches the results Monday evening.





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